



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS

2 NAVY ANNEX

WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

CRS

Docket No: 3573-99

2 September 1999

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552.

A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 1 September 1999. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

The Board found that you enlisted in the Navy on 27 December 1971 at age 18. Your record reflects that you received two nonjudicial punishments and were convicted by a special court-martial. The offenses included unauthorized absence on three occasions, violation of a lawful general regulation, and absence from your appointed place of duty on 29 occasions.

Your military record shows that on 19 October 1973 you submitted a written request for an undesirable discharge in order to avoid trial by court-martial for absence from your appointed place of duty on 14 occasions, unauthorized absences totalling six days, willful disobedience of a lawful order on four occasions, dereliction of duty on two occasions, and appearing in an unclean, torn, faded, and unkempt uniform. Your record also shows that prior to submitting this request you conferred with a qualified military lawyer at which time you were advised of your rights and warned of the probable adverse consequences of accepting such a discharge. The Board found that your request was granted and, as a result of this action, you were spared the

stigma of a court-martial conviction and the potential penalties of a punitive discharge and confinement at hard labor. You received an undesirable discharge on 28 November 1973.

In its review of your application the Board carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and immaturity and limited education. However, the Board found that these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge, given the frequency of your offenses. In this regard, the Board noted that in a period of less than two years, you were the subject of three disciplinary actions and requested discharge in lieu of another court-martial. The Board also believed that considerable clemency was extended to you when your request for discharge to avoid trial by court-martial was approved since, by this action, you escaped the possibility of confinement at hard labor and a punitive discharge. Further, the Board concluded that you received the benefit of your bargain when your request for discharge was granted and should not be permitted to change it now. Based on the foregoing, the Board concluded that no change to the discharge is warranted. Accordingly, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new and material evidence or other matter not previously considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

W. DEAN PFEIFFER
Executive Director